

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method of creating a counterfeit resistant article, comprising the steps of:

reading a first pattern from ~~an article~~; the article;

encoding said first pattern into a first data set;

transforming said first data set into a second data set;

converting said second data set into a second pattern; and

marking ~~an article~~ the article with said second pattern.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second data sets are numeric sequences.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said transforming step is performed with an encryption algorithm.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is a bar code.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is invisible.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

7-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A method of identifying counterfeit articles, comprising the steps of:

reading a ~~plurality of~~ first pattern and a second pattern; ~~patterns~~;

converting said ~~plurality of patterns~~ first pattern and said second pattern into a corresponding ~~plurality of~~ first data set and second data sets; and

comparing said ~~plurality of~~ first and second data sets to each other.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said ~~plurality of~~ first and second data sets are numeric sequences.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said converting step is performed with an encryption algorithm.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said ~~plurality of~~ first and second patterns is a bar code.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said ~~plurality of~~ first and second patterns is invisible.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said ~~plurality of~~ first and second patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

19. (Currently amended) A system for creating a counterfeit resistant article, comprising:

means for reading a first pattern from ~~an~~ the article;

means for encoding said first pattern into a first data set;

means for transforming said first data set into a second data set;

means for converting said second data set into a second pattern; and

means for marking ~~an~~ the article with said second pattern.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said first and second data sets are numeric sequences.

21. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said means for transforming comprises an encryption algorithm.

22. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is a bar code.

23. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is invisible.

24. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

25-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently amended) A system for identifying counterfeit articles, comprising:

means for reading a ~~plurality of~~ first pattern and a second pattern; ~~patterns~~;

means for converting said ~~plurality of patterns~~ first pattern and said second pattern into a corresponding ~~plurality of data sets~~ first data set and second data set; and

means for comparing said ~~plurality of data sets~~ first and second data sets to each other.

32. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein said ~~plurality of~~ first and second data sets are numeric sequences.

33. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said converting step is performed with an encryption algorithm.

34. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of said ~~plurality of~~ first and second patterns is a bar code.

35. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of said ~~plurality of~~ first and second patterns is invisible.

36. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of said ~~plurality of~~ first and second patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

37. (Currently amended) A counterfeit resistant article, comprising;
a first randomly-generated marking readable to generate ~~representing~~ a first data set; and

a second marking readable to generate ~~representing~~ a second data set, wherein said first data set and said second data set are related according to a predefined ~~defined~~ relationship.

38. (Currently amended) The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, wherein said ~~latent~~ first marking is invisible.

39. (Currently amended) The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, wherein said ~~latent~~ first marking exists in the infra-red ~~infrared~~ light spectrum.

40. (Currently amended) The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, wherein said ~~defined~~ predefined relationship is determined by an encryption algorithm and an encryption key.

41. (Original) The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, further comprising a framing image.

42. (Cancelled)